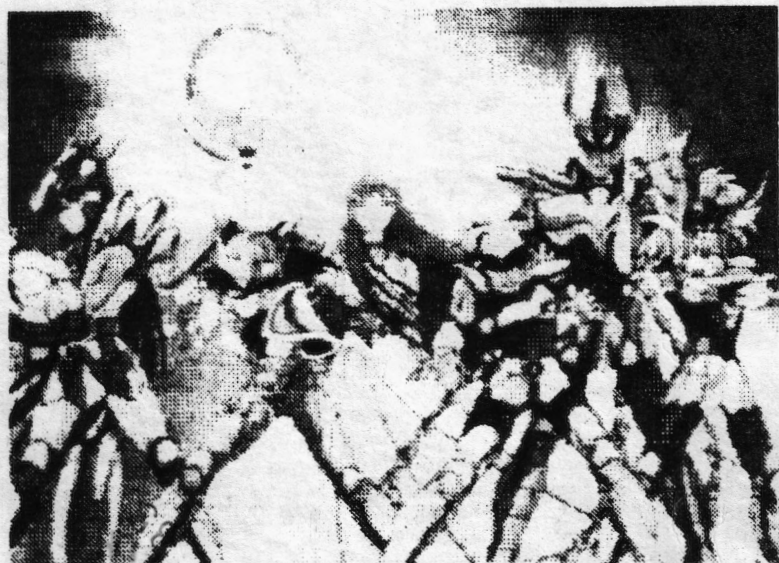


Final Stop

Number 27

# Andromeda

December 1988/January 1989



Saint Seiya

Crusher Joe \$0.50



The bi-monthly newsletter of the Boston Japanimation Society

# Society Information

**Final Stop Andromeda** is a bi-monthly newsletter put out by the Boston Japanimation Society. Our current officers are:

Burton Choinski — Newsletter editor/Club Treasurer  
Marianne Popa — Public Relations/Social Coordinator  
Rev. Mike Horne — Secretary/ Society Coordinator

783-4918

The annual BJS membership fee is 5 dollars for members in the U.S. and Canada, and 10 dollars for members elsewhere in the world. Only U.S. currency will be accepted.

With your membership in the Boston Japanimation Society you get the following benefits:

- ✓ A six-issue subscription to **Final Stop Andromeda**,
- ✓ A membership card to impress your friends with,
- ✓ Discounts on merchandise (10%) at the following locations:
  - ✦ *Outer Limits*, 475 Moody St., Waltham
  - ✦ *Bop City Comics*, 80 Worcester Rd., Framingham (Rt 9, in the Marshalls Mall)
- ✓ Free classifieds in the society newsletter

If you got this in the mail, check your mailing label! If the words "**Last Issue**" appear under your membership expiration date, this really is your **LAST ISSUE**!

Memberships and renewals should be sent in the form of a check or money order made payable to:

Burton Choinski, 2 Charena Rd, Wayland, Ma. 01778

Make sure you make the check or money order out to Burton Choinski, not to the BJS. Any check or money order made out incorrectly will be returned to you.

## Directions to BJS meetings at U.MASS Boston

- By Train — Take the **Red** line to JFK/U.MASS station. Free shuttle buses there will take you directly to U.MASS Boston. Shuttle buses run until 4:30 pm.
- By Car — Take Route 3 to exit 15 to get to Morrissey Blvd., on which U.MASS is located, across the street from Ch. 56 and the Boston Globe. It's right next to the JFK Library.
- At U.MASS — Walk or drive to Wheatly Building (No. 010). At present our meetings are held on the first floor, in room 019 (across from the elevators).

## Contributors to this issue of **Final Stop Andromeda**:

Burton Choinski  
Akira Nanimasu

Roger Duarte  
Kevin Leahy

D. Cameron Calkins  
Richard Suzuki

Adam Savje  
David Moisan

Eric Streck  
Dennis Richards

# Video Schedule

All meetings begin at 1:00pm, on the second saturday of each month. See page 2 for details on how to get to U.MASS and the video room.

## December 10th:

Main Feature: Saint Seiya Movie  
Also showing: Open the Door

## January 14th: ("Space Adventure" month!)

Main Feature: Crusher Joe  
Also showing: Yamato III

If there is a movie or episode or something you would like to see in a future meeting, please come to Burton Choinski with your request. Sorry, no X-rated films will be considered.

# Submissions

**Final Stop Andromeda** needs submissions from its members! We can use any anime-related material, such as drawings, reviews, translated material, commentary, or anything else you think might be good. Remember, the quality and size of the newsletter is up to you, so submit often!

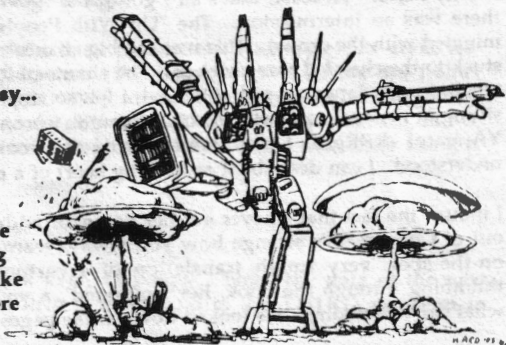
Sorry, we can't go to magazine format just yet. However, we are doing pretty good in terms of submissions, so if I do find a way to do it cheaply, look forward to larger and better newsletters. However, at present, we need more art, especially for the "mascots", Kenji and Miko. Send any type of B&W artwork - no reasonable submission refused!

Send submissions to me, the newsletter editor. My address is:

Burton Choinski  
2 Charena Rd.  
Wayland, Ma. 01778

Your newsletter editor has been busy...

It seems like everything hits at once around here, and putting this thing together has me hopping around like mad. Help me out and send in more artwork!



# Commentary

I can't promise you insight, but funny? Maybe...

by Akira Nanimasu

Wow. I had no idea when I wrote that story in #25 that it would go over so well. I write weird stories in College, and they come back with C's on them. Ehh, maybe my audience was all wrong. Wow. Sam Honda liked my story. Sam Honda, the "Mikey" of the anime world. I would love to go up to my English Professor and say "In your face!" but I value my education, and I'm sure it doesn't pay to make enemies among the faculty. As for my own column, ahhhh, I dunno... I was planning on trying for the Dean's list at College, but with certain people doing my homework, well... it's impossible. He's just not English major material. Now, I'm not saying that you'll never see anything from me in the *Andromeda* again, I'm just saying don't look forward to hearing from me in every issue, 'cause you might be disappointed someday. You saw that my story was three pages long, single spaced, in #25? That's nothing. See how much I've written already? And I haven't even gotten to what I wanted to "say". Because of this, I am very glad that we might be changing over to a magazine format soon. So, you might be reading more of my weird stories again soon. I wish I could give you guys a definite answer, but "I'm just not ready to make a commitment right now."

Okay, okay, okay. Enough of this rambling.

Most of you guys have seen me at the meetings. It's not hard to single me out, I'm a girl. Well, I don't drive, my Mom takes me to the meetings. (It's not my fault, I have my certificate from Driver's ed., and my learner's permit, it's just that the car I'm supposed to learn on is a peice of - well, it needs to be fixed up, and my father'll probably have it done by the time I graduate from College.) We have an unwritten agreement; she takes me to places I want to go, and I have to go with her to places she wants to go. The reason why I wasn't at the B.J.S. picnic was because I had to go to the Edaville Railroad's tenth annual classic car show. Well, one of these things was a musical extravaganza, called, "Up With People." Pretty much, it's a group of kids, from High School to College age, and the put on a show drenched in hokiness. It's A.F.S., with people who dance and sing. A.F.S.? Little Kanji lit up in my eyes. At last! Someone Japanese, to translate some comics for me!! So that's what I did. I brought practically everything I owned to the performance. It got to be too heavy, and I got sick of carrying it around, so I put all of it in the car, except for This is animation #4 -- Final Yamato. The prestigious, "Dessler's story part two" edition.

So anyway, I brought that back with me to my seat. The show began, and it was just as hoky as I thought it would be. They did a Japanese song, entitled "Big City is a Lonely Place." At least, that's all I got out of it. Well, after their salute to the fifties, there was an intermission. The "Up With People" people came off the stage and mingled with the crowd. This was my big chance! This was it! Why was my behind stuck to the chair? I was chicken! The shame of it all!!! My Mom had to attract the attention of a Japanese girl. Oh God, I felt so stupid. Any Nihongo I knew was still sitting in my seat, up in third row. I couldn't pronouce Yamato right. Ymato. No!! YA-mato! RRRgh! I just about shoved the book in her face, and suddenly, she understood. I can describe it as nothing short of a miracle.

I mourn the fact that I never got her name, or address. She was a manga artist, just out of College. It's strange how you always learn too late in life. She gave me an on-the-spot, very rough translation of a cartoon on page 50. While she was thumbing through the book, her 'boyfriend', a young frenchman, came over to see what she was dooing. He looked down at the pages and said:



"I know those characters! Where did you get that book?"

"How could you know these characters? It's a Japanese cartoon," she told him.

"No it's not! It's a French cartoon."

The manga illustrator and I exchanged looks, and shook our heads.

"I'm sorry, you're wrong. It's a Japanese cartoon."

"Then how come everybody looks French?"

Now, aren't you glad you waited for that?

# Announcements

## Anime Hasshin

Anime Hasshin is a Japanese animation and manga fan club much like the BJS. It has 100 members from the United States and Canada, and all fans of anime are welcome to join.

It offers a bi-monthly, 12 page newsletter the Rose, synopsis and translation packets with about 35 pages of material each, contact with other anime clubs all over the country and tape trading for its members.

The cost of a yearly membership is \$8. Write to Lorraine Savage at the following address:

Anime Hasshin  
Lorraine Savage  
P.O. Box 132  
Warren, RI 02885

## Mascot Search Ends at December Meeting

This December's meeting is the last day to submit artwork for the two mascots of the BJS, Kenji and Miko. The purpose of these two, a male and female character drawn in anime style is to identify BJS projects and activities (i.e. on the membership card, signs at creation, etc). The officers are offering a \$10 first prize and \$5 second prize for the best and second best male (Kenji) and female (Miko) design and a further prize for the best and second best BJS logo design.

For the characters, we are looking for the basic parameters: Hair style, face style, etc. The artist retains full rights to the characters. The logo design is for the BJS T-shirt which we hope to get working on soon. Any ideas as to the layout of the t-shirt, which will include the chosen design for Miko and Kenji, are appreciated. Either mail in a copy of your submissions (with your name) to me (the editor), or bring it to the meeting in December.

## Roadtrip News

November's Roadtrip was the largest ever, 11 people. Since the date of the next roadtrip falls on Christmas, the roadtrip is moved up to the **THIRD** weekend in December (the 18th).

# Andromedia

## Comparing Japanimation and Science Fiction

by David Moisan

In this installment, I will discuss romanticism in Japanese Animation. Typically, the romantic story emphasizes the beauty and mystery of nature and the human condition. This genre is a small but important part of anime, since some of the greatest anime films made are romantic. In particular, two people have produced most of the romantic anime films: Leiji Matsumoto and Hayao Miyazaki; it is these two I will discuss.

Most American fans know Leiji Matsumoto through his hit series Space Cruiser Yamato. This series ran for 104 episodes and spawned five movies: Space Cruiser Yamato, Arrividerci Yamato, Yamato: The New Voyages, Be Forever Yamato, and Final Yamato. In 1980, the series was released in America under the title Star Blazers, and it created a whole generation of American anime fans.

For those of you who have never seen Star Blazers, here's a rundown of the first season. In the year 2199, Earth was under attack from the Gamilon Empire, led by Desslar. Earth is slowly becoming uninhabitable, due to the constant bombardment of Planet Bombs. In one year, all life on earth will become extinct.

The leaders of Earth receive a message from Queen Starsha of Iscandar: If Earth can send a ship to Iscandar, Starsha will give them a device (Cosmo-DNA) which will reverse the effects of the planet bombs. The World War 2 battleship Yamato is refitted as a spaceship, and is sent to Iscandar. The Yamato fights its way there and back, bringing the Cosmo-DNA home despite a last-ditch attack by Desslar.

The next two seasons of Yamato, and the five movies, have the same basic plotline. The Earth is threatened by invasion; the Yamato is sent out to fight, and meets with a goddess (with long, flowing hair) who reveals the secret to defeating the invaders; the Yamato then single-handedly defeats them. In Arrividerci Yamato and Final Yamato the Yamato is sacrificed to save the Earth.

What's remarkable about Yamato is the spirit that Matsumoto imbues to the ship. The Yamato is a living ship, surviving impossible odds, sustained by the spirits of those who gave their lives for her. Matsumoto has a strong sense of history, and the resonance between 1944 and 2199 is quite apparent. Also, Queen Starsha typifies the mysticism of nature. This is what makes Yamato a romantic series.

Another Matsumoto film worth discussing is My youth in Arcadia. In this film, Earth has been invaded by the Illumidians, when Captain Harlock arrives. Captain Harlock is a space pirate, an archetypical individualist, who views the Earth government and the Illumidians with scorn. Throughout the film, Harlock travels though space with his ship, the Arcadia, and tries to stay alive despite attacks from the Illumidians, and from a mystical force known as the Owen-Stanley Witch of Space.

The best example of romanticism in this film is when Harlock arrives at the planet Tokarga, which has been devastated by the Illumidians. The only survivors are a platoon of Tokargan soldiers and a little girl, who is the last female Tokargan. Later, when the Arcadia is returning to Earth via the Owen-Stanley Witch of Space (a space whirlpool), the girl dies of her wounds. The Arcadia is then ensnared by the whirlpool.

At that moment, the surviving Tokargans realize that their race is finished, and they hurl themselves out an airlock. Harlock then frees his ship, now free of the negative energy of the Tokargans, from the whirlpool.

My Youth in Arcadia is undoubtedly Matsumoto's best film. Captain Harlock is, next to Desslar, his best character. As with Yamato, this film is marked by a great spirit of romanticism and history.

The other great producer to be discussed is Hayao Miyazaki. According to Viz Comics, Miyazaki has participated in 39 animation projects in 25 years. He's been around ever since Osamu Tezuka created the business. He is considered by many to be the most brilliant producer in the field; like Matsumoto, he's also famous for his romantic films.

In 1984, Miyazaki released a landmark film: Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind. Nausicaa is set 1000 years in the future, after a terrible biotechnological war has destroyed most life on Earth and covered the planet with a vast toxic jungle. As the film opens, humanity is dying off. The story revolves around Nausicaa, a young girl who has a special empathy with Nature; she has the power to soothe the insects and other creatures of the jungle. Nausicaa becomes immersed in a conflict that threatens to destroy all of humanity.

Nausicaa is a combination of science fiction and fantasy. Miyazaki's explanation of the toxic jungle and the creatures that inhabit it is nearly as detailed as the ecosystem in Frank Herbert's Dune. However, Nausicaa and her empathic talents make this film into a romantic fantasy. Nausicaa is the perfect romantic heroine, in total communion with nature (without even realizing it).

This combination of science fiction and romantic fantasy make this film remarkable in itself. However, Miyazaki's direction, character design and artwork (not to mention Mamoru Hishashi's beautiful musical score) all combine to make Nausicaa into one of the greatest animated films of all time. It's simply among the most beautiful and powerful films ever made, Japanese, animated, or otherwise.

The last Miyazaki film to be discussed is The Castle in the Sky. Laputa. Laputa tells the story of a legendary flying castle, Laputa, built long ago. When its inhabitants began dying off, its creators discovered that man could not live away from the ground; Laputa was abandoned and forgotten.

Three people come into the picture: Sheeta, a young girl who is the owner of a levitation stone from Laputa; Pazu, a boy who befriends Sheeta; and Muska, a government agent who wants to find Laputa and seize its power for himself. Muska is after Sheeta's levitation stone, since the stone is capable of controlling Laputa. Pazu and Sheeta desperately try to reach Laputa first.

The romantic dimension in Laputa comes from its premise that man cannot live away from the ground; it ties in nicely with Miyazaki's reverence of nature. Otherwise, this film was made in a Victorian England mold; it has elements from Jules Verne's Around the World in Eighty Days and Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels. In fact, the concept and title of the film was taken from Swift's tale. Although Laputa doesn't have the impact of Nausicaa, it's a marvelous adventure story and a beautiful film in its own right.

That's all for part 2. Part 3 will cover the venerated and much loved "Space Movie". I'll look at Dirty Pair, M.D. Geist, Gall Force, and others. See you then!

## Love: Do You Remember (From Macross Movie)

by Kevin Leahy and Roger Duarte

Now I'm able to hear your voice  
And in this place it grows  
So I'm in the loneliness of defeat  
Now your figure is visible  
Walking over, with eyes closed you wait  
But tears clouded my present feelings

Do you remember the time our eyes met?  
Do you remember the time our hands touched?  
That was the beginning of Love's journey  
I love you so

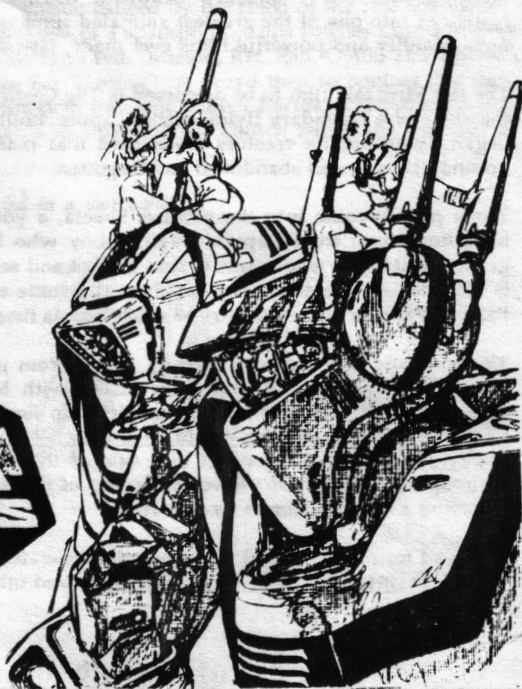
I know your view now though we're parting  
The free body becomes cheerful  
Now I believe in your love  
Please look at it from a distance  
Until yesterday, tears clouded the present world

Do you remember the time our eyes met?  
Do you remember the time our hands touched?  
That was the beginning of Love's journey  
I love you so

I'm not lonely now  
Because of you

Do you remember the time our eyes met?  
Do you remember the time our hands touched?  
That was the beginning of Love's journey  
I love you so

I'm not lonely now  
Because of you  
I'm not lonely now  
Because of you  
I'm not lonely now  
Because of you





## Urusei Yatsura 5 -- "Boy meets Girl" Synopsis (Part 1)

by Richard Suzuki

[Editor's Note: Richard Peiri grabbed this off of the UUCP computer network. Richard Suzuki gives credit to James Staley, Dennis Qwyang and Aaron Reed for info and translations. I personally am not a big Urusei fan, but I found this to be a very beautiful and well done movie. This synopsis will run in three parts, finishing up by the March/April Issue of Final Stop. The movie itself will be shown in March.]

The movie opens with a mysterious alien ship approaching Earth. On it a cloaked figure looks at a locket with a picture of Lum as a child in it. Back at Tomobiki High, Lum has a nightmare as she naps in class. She remembers when she was very young and met a man dressed in dark robes who says he would claim her when she was old enough to be wed. Lum tries to tell Ataru about her dream but Ataru is too busy trying to (unsuccessfully) get a date with yet another girl. Lum handles this in her usual way, blasting Ataru and the surrounding street with her electric attack. As they run through town lowering property values, they pass by Sakura who has a premonition that something ill is brewing. This and other bad omens, like a broken sandal, a black cat, a passing hearse, and the appearance of Cherry induce Sakura to investigate this further.

Lum has returned to her spaceship to pout and is contacted by her father. It seems they've uncovered her great-grandfather in a capsule while they were moving. The old man's been asleep for 20 years so they decide Lum should come home to visit him when he wakes up.

Ataru, Sakura and Cherry all go to Sakura's home to use a crystal ball she owns. Jump-starting the reluctant orb with Cherry's face, they see an image of Lum being swallowed by darkness. Ataru is disturbed by the image and remembers Lum's dream. He rushes home to find Lum gone. Ten appears to inform him that she has gone to visit her parents.

Lum's great-grandfather could at best be described as "extremely senile". He has trouble recognizing people he has met a minute before. But when he discovers Lum is his great-granddaughter he becomes very upset. He becomes even more upset when an old man in dark robes enters. Lum recognizes him from her dream and Lum's great-grandfather recognizes him from 120 years ago. The man is named Upa and he found Lum's great-grandfather starving while on a trip. Upa offered two mushrooms, warning that one was edible and the other poisonous. When the poor shmuck discovered that he had eaten the poisonous one, Upa offered him the antidote in exchange for his daughter as a wife. It turned out that Lum's great-grandfather never had daughters, only sons, and thus agreed. Upa was tricked but vowed revenge. Revenge which is now coming to fruit. Upa intends to wed Lum to his great-grandson and has come to claim her. This gets Upa thrown out of the ship, but Upa declares he will get Lum eventually.

The next day, Lum still has not returned but another matter has caught everyone's attention. The appearance of a flying chariot drawn by flying pigs. Yes, pigs. The cloaked figure (the one seen in the movie opening) who is piloting forgets to duck as the ensemble crashes through the windows, knocking himself out. In the nurses office he comes to and surprises everyone by mistaking Sakura for Lum and claiming to be her fiance, Lupa. Lum then returns and Lupa double-checks his locket before flinging himself at her. After he regains consciousness from Lum's electric blast, he slips a ring on her finger and tells her he'll be back for her tomorrow, after she has "grown up". Ataru is displeased with all this, as is Lum who is unable to remove the ring from her finger.

Lupa reports back to his great-grandfather and it's revealed that the ring speeds the maturing process when worn. Soon Lum will lose her horns as part of an Oni's natural growth and she'll be without her powers until they grow back.

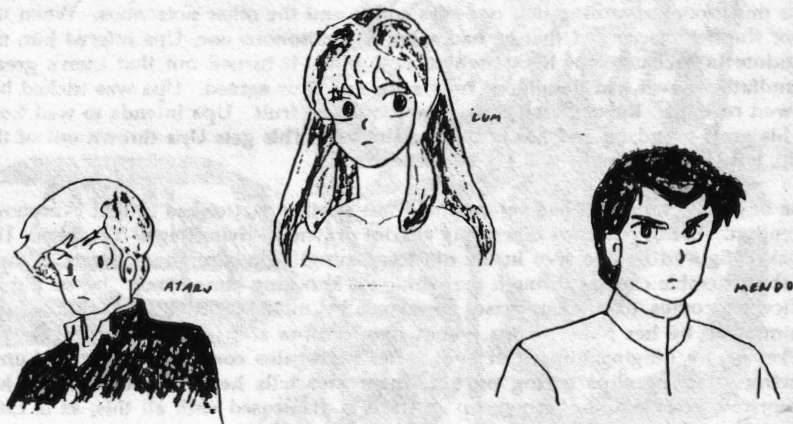
Walking to school the next day, Ataru is actually quite jealous but this manifests itself in him being sarcastic and mean to Lum. She blasts him and leaves him behind. Lum then meets Lupa. Ten appears just as Lum tries to zap Lupa but to their surprise her electric attack seems to run out of juice. Then surprise is replaced by astonishment when Lum's horns fall out. Lupa gasses Lum and Ten with spores from a mushroom and takes them captive. Ataru passes by the same spot and finds Lum's horns on the ground just as Lupa flies overhead with an unconscious Lum in his chariot.

Lum's parents soon receive a video tape from Upa telling them about the upcoming marriage. The entire planet is mobilized to prepare to rescue Lum but a strange package drops out of the sky from Upa. Whatever was in the box neutralizes the entire world.

Ataru shows up in class late with his enormous collection of girl's addresses and phone numbers. He offers them to Mendo in exchange for a space shuttle to get him off-planet. Mendo is insulted and tries to remove Ataru's head with his Katana. As these two are arguing, Benten and Oyuki show up outside the classroom on Benten's airbike. They tell of some barrier that has prevented them from going to Lum's home planet. Once Oyuki hears about the flying pigs, she realizes that Lum's kidnapper is from the dreaded Darkspace universe. Ataru, Mendo, Benten and Oyuki commandeer Ran's spaceship to rescue Lum. Ran is less than pleased since she was entertaining (feeding) Rei at the time and isn't inclined to rescue Lum anyway. She's even less pleased when Oyuki runs her spaceship into another mushroom-shaped spaceship while attempting to warp into Darkspace.

In the Darkspace universe, Lum and Ten are both being held captive. They make a break for freedom in the confusion caused by the crash of the two spaceships at the "Lightport" (Darkspace equivalent of a spaceport). Lupa catches Lum and shows her that her friends have all been captured. Mendo, Rei, Ran, Oyuki and Benten are all tied up but Lum doesn't see her 'Darling'! A guard then recognizes that one of the spaceships that crashed belongs to someone named Karula, which throws Lupa into a panic. He orders all guards to surround the church where the wedding is to be held.

*Next Issue: "Getting Married in a war zone"*



# Classifieds

## Wanted:

Tapes of Urusei Yatsura and Maison Ikkoku. I'm also looking for manga volumes of Maison Ikkoku and Ranma 1/2. I'm willing to pay for tapes. Call (after 5) at (508) 885-7679 or write me.

Andrew Craig  
50 Irving St.  
Spenser, MA 01562

## Wanted:

Any episodes of a 1984-86 series called "Musashi no Ken" (Sword of Musashi); an animated drama about a Kendo Warrior. Call, (after 6pm)

Ken Fung  
(617) 665-4126

## Notice:

If anyone is interested in tapes directly made from Laser Disks, Contact george at 782-0591 after 6:00pm. Currently I'm looking at getting Gundam: Char's Counterattack, Patlabor, and Lupin III Pilot Film.

## Wanted:

Very good quality copies of, or subtitled (any quality if subtitled, as long as it can survive copying) of the Hokuto No Ken T.V. Series episodes. Also looking for near-perfect copies of Metal Suit Panic: MAdox-01, Devilman OAV, Nausicaa (original Japanese version) and any Dirty Pair movies or episodes. Call or write:

Dave Irish  
27 Buchanon Rd.  
Salem, Ma. 01970  
(508) 744-2689

Can pick tapes up anywhere and have them back the next day! I also have a ton of stuff that YOU may want!

## Wanted:

I am seeking episodes 21-35 of orgus. I will supply tapes and pay well for the copies. If you can help me, please write to:

Dennis Richards  
Riverview Apt. 8  
RR 1 Box 1440-22  
Johnson, Vt. 05656

If you have a classified you would like included in the next issue, mail it to the address given on page 3 (newsletter editor) or hand it to me at the monthly meeting.



Above, a picture taken by Marianne at the BJS picnic. Shown (L-R): Tom C., Adam S., Tom M., Dave I., Peter S., Wes B., and Rev. Mike "moving ass-backwards through life" H.

(Sorry mike, I couldn't resist!)





# Member Art



AS  
ADWTSavje

# Basic Japanese

In the last installment I gave you 25 kanji to memorize, but due to space constraints I neglected to show you how to use them. In addition, I have decided that my previous idea of giving the various ON and Kun sounds is also beyond the scope of this article.

Let me state again that the purpose of this column is to provide you with a quick and dirty means of getting some meaning out of Japanese Kanji. This method is not entirely accurate, but can get the job done. More on how I mean for this information to be used at the end of this article. Onward for the next set of 25:

## N. [On (Kun)] common meanings.

26. [Sei (Masa)] = right, righteousness, justice; original; plus, positive; genuine; just, proper, correct.
27. [Chu (Naka)] = center, middle; mean, median, average; second volume (of three); inside, interior, midst, midway.
28. [Sen (Saki)] = the future; priority, precedence; precede, forestall, anticipate; point, tip, end; nozzle; head (of a line); the first priority; objective, destination; previous, prior.
29. [Ku (Kuchi)] = mouth, lips; speech, words; one's taste, stopper, plug; nozzle, orifice, slit, aperture; door, gate, entrance.
30. [Yu (Migi)] = right, right hand; turn to the right.
31. [To/Do (Tsuchi)] = earth, ground, soil; Saturday; turkey.
32. [Tai/Dai (O)] = large, huge, grand, mighty; the greater; size; very; severe (damage); success; very much (like).
33. [Sho (Ko)] = smallness; minor; small, little, diminutive, minute, fine, trivial; short, pretty, petty, nearly.
34. [San (Yama)] = mount, mountain, hill, height, knoll; heap, pile, crown (of a hat); speculation, adventure; climax, crisis; mine.
35. [Sen (Kawa)] = river, stream, brook.
36. [Sa (Hidari)] = left; the following; leftist; turn to the left.
37. [Shu (Te)] = Hand, arm; help; handwriting; handle, means; trick, snare; skill; kind; direction, side; trouble, care; control, management; possession; connection.
38. [Getsu (Tsuki)] = moon; month; Monday; month (of the year).
39. [Boku (Ki/Ko)] = tree; wood; timber; lumber; wooden clappers; Thursday.
40. [Shin (Mori)] = woods, grove.

41. [Sui (Mizu)] = water; ice water; Wednesday.
42. [Ko/Ka (Hi)] = fire, flame, blaze; Tuesday.
43. [Sho/Sei (Nama)] = birth; life, existence, living; subsistence; raw, uncooked, fresh; unripe; rare; inexperienced, unprocessed.
44. [Den (Ta)] = rice paddy; paddy field.
45. [Haku/Byaku (Shiro)] = white; fair (skin); grey (hair); blank (paper); spotless; innocent.
46. [Moku (Me)] = item, division, class; order (of plants and animals); eye; look, gaze; notice, attention; viewpoint; discrimination, insight; experience; treatment; care, favor, pity; texture, weave; mesh; grain, square; sight, vision.
47. [Seki (Ishi)] = stone, pebble, rock; jewel.
48. [Ke/Ka (Hana)] = flower, blossom, essence, spirit, pride; pearl; youth; best days; beautiful women; flower arrangement; showy, brilliant, gorgeous.
49. [Seki (Aka)] = red, crimson, scarlet; Communist.
50. [Soku (Ashi)] = foot; leg; counter for pairs of footwear; flipper, fin; walk, step, pace, speed; footing; draft (of a ship); foot (of a mountain); trace; deficit, shortage.

Let me give you a few examples of how this whole thing works. The character for "Mountain" followed by the character for "Man" reads as "Hermit" or "Mountain People". Similarly, "Large" followed by "Mouth" stands for "Big mouth" (or bragging, exaggerating, etc). Some combinations are not so obvious. "Center" followed by "Mouth" means "Central Opening" or "Central Entrance". It is also used to stand for "Slander".

When reading the Kanji, try various combinations to see what fits best with the rest of the sentence. If you come upon a Kanji that denotes two different things, check the context of the sentence. And always be careful of Names! Names can really mess you up if you are not careful. If you find something that does not fit the context at all, it may be a name.

That's all for this issue. The characters presented to this point cover the first grade in Japanese schools (with some second grade characters added last issue for time, number and question characters). See you next issue!

正 中 先 口 右 土 主 大 小 山 川 左  
26 27 28 29 30 31 → 32 33 34 35 36

手 月 木 森 水 火 生 田 白 目 石 石  
37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 → 48

花 花 赤 足  
48 → 49 50

The squashed water symbol on the left side means this character may have something to do with water or liquids 沙

The four "flames" underneath means this character may have something to do with fire or hostile/fiery intent. 煮

